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28 January 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

28 January 1959

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

***USSR:** On preliminary study, the TASS summary of Khrushchev's speech to the special 21st party congress does not reveal any significant changes in the seven-year-plan goals approved by the central committee in November. In the foreign policy field, Khrushchev repeated the Soviet position on a number of issues, including the German problem and disarmament, but for the first time openly criticized Nasir's crackdown on UAR Communists. He again attacked the "anti-party" group in the USSR but gave no clues as to plans for further moves against them. According to Western press reports, Khrushchev said that "the Soviet Union has started the serial production of intercontinental ballistic missiles" but this statement was not included in the TASS summary.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

No
Iran: At the Karachi meeting of the Baghdad Pact, Turkish Prime Minister Menderes expressed his concern to Deputy Undersecretary Henderson over Iranian Prime Minister Eqbal's uncommunicative and evasive attitude. He voiced the fear that Iran may be "seriously flirting with the idea" of neutralism and also commented on Eqbal's use of the term "peaceful coexistence." The chief British delegate, Defense Minister Sandys, also voiced deep concern over Iran's position.

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Belgian Congo: New anti-European disturbances occurred at two points in the Congo this week despite Belgium's commitment earlier this month to the principle of eventual independence for the Congo. [Nationalists in Leopoldville have asked Ghana's Prime Minister Nkrumah for support, and Nkrumah has moved to hire lawyers to defend arrested Congolese nationalists.]

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Rhodesia and Nyasaland: [Recent demonstrations in Nyasaland reflect the growing threat posed by extremist African nationalists to this British protectorate's moderate evolution and to the continued existence of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The federation was created in 1953 and is dominated by European settlers. Extremist leader Hastings Banda already overshadows all rivals in the nationalist movement in Nyasaland and appears to be undercutting more moderately inclined African leaders in Northern and Southern Rhodesia.]

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Pakistan: The land reform program announced by President Ayub on 24 January should lay the basis for a more productive system of agriculture by providing several million acres for distribution to the peasants and by eliminating small, uneconomic holdings. The protests of the landowners affected will probably be overridden by the military government. Rapid implementation of the program would increase the government's popular support.

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III. THE WEST

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West Germany: [On Chancellor Adenauer's instructions, Defense Minister Strauss has informed General Norstad that if other countries are unwilling to accept IRBMs, Germany will "step in and help." Earlier Bonn had been unwilling to risk adverse local public reaction to stationing of IRBMs in Germany. Strauss also indicated that Bonn would like to begin an extensive modern weapons research program.]

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Honduras-Nicaragua: The Villeda administration in Honduras, beset by critical political problems, has evidenced concern over a violent propaganda campaign emanating from several hundred Honduran exiles near the border in neighboring Nicaragua. For over a month a clandestine radio in Nicaragua has been announcing an imminent "liberation movement" and calling on sympathizers within Honduras to revolt. The emigrés evidently have Nicaraguan support. [redacted]

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Khrushchev Opens 21st Party Congress

Speaking in confident and optimistic tones Khrushchev on 27 January led off the special 21st party congress with a six-hour report on the seven-year plan which largely followed the "theses" approved by the party central committee last November. According to the TASS summary, he reiterated the Soviet goal of surpassing the United States in per capita industrial production by 1970 and credited his 1957 reorganization of industrial management with a major share in accelerating economic development. He claimed that the world balance of forces will show a "decisive edge" in favor of the bloc when the economic goals of the USSR's seven-year plan have been achieved.

Khrushchev criticized the crackdown on Communists in the UAR. Previously, Soviet displeasure over this action had been expressed only privately. After asserting that Nasir has "won the warmest regard of the Soviet people" and that the USSR "never interferes" in the internal affairs of other countries, he declared he could not remain silent about the campaign being conducted in the UAR under the "spurious guise of anti-Communism." He added, however, that differing ideological views between the USSR and the UAR "should not impede the development of friendly relations... and the joint struggle against imperialism."

Calling agreement in the disarmament field the "main task today," Khrushchev repeated Moscow's standard formula for the permanent banning of testing, production, and use of nuclear weapons and guided missiles and the destruction of stockpiles. He repeated, without apparent softening, the position on the German problem set forth in Moscow's 10 January note proposing a peace treaty with the two German states which would solve the future status of Berlin by making the Western sector a free city under UN "guarantees."

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The speech showed no relaxation in Moscow's attitude toward Belgrade. Khrushchev once again cited Yugoslav membership in the Balkan Pact as refutation of Belgrade's claim that it stands outside all blocs. He disparaged the Yugoslav living standard, and suggested it spoke poorly for Tito's theories and policies. Yugoslav allegations of differences between Moscow and Peiping were also condemned. Many Chinese Communist practices are "original," he conceded, "but we have no disagreements."

The TASS summary of Khrushchev's speech cast little light on Warsaw Radio's 26 January report from its Moscow correspondent that the Congress would also discuss "certain other, wider problems of a political nature." The Soviet leader again condemned the "anti-party" group as a despicable group of factionalists and dissenters," but, at least in the summary, there was no suggestion that further action would be taken. He also said that the Soviet constitution should be overhauled to reflect the "sweeping" changes in the life of the country. Khrushchev's alleged statement on "serial production" of intercontinental ballistic missiles--reported by the Western press but not by TASS--is in accord with existing National Intelligence Estimates.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Iran's Negative Attitude Causing Concern Among Baghdad Pact Allies

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[Turkish and British representatives attending the Baghdad Pact Ministerial Council meeting at Karachi are expressing concern that Iran may be considering a policy of neutralism. Turkish Prime Minister Menderes told Deputy Under Secretary Loy Henderson he believes Iranian Prime Minister Eqbal's "evasive" attitude and use of the word "coexistence" have such implications. Menderes says Eqbal told him immediately before the meeting that insufficient attention was being given to Iran's dangerous defense situation, and that he cannot sign a bilateral defense agreement with the US at Karachi even if the US agrees to every point desired by Iran. Furthermore Eqbal reportedly said that he would never again attend a Baghdad Pact meeting.]

[British Defense Minister Duncan Sandys, who is leading the UK delegation, has stressed Iran's difficult position geographically and financially and stated that loss of Iran by the West would be a calamity.]

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Unrest Apparently Spreading in Belgian Congo

Unrest, motivated essentially by nationalism, appears to be spreading among Africans in the Belgian Congo despite Brussels' public commitment on 13 January to the principle of eventual independence for the colony.

Serious disorders involving between one and two thousand Africans took place at Matadi, the Congo's principal port, on 25 January, and two days later there were anti-European disturbances at Leopoldville--scene of extensive rioting from 4 to 6 January. Disorders requiring police reinforcements were also reported ten days ago at Stanleyville in the north-eastern Congo. No disturbances have yet occurred in the mineral-rich Katanga region where nationalist ferment has been reported in the past, but the American consul in Elisabethville believes African leaders in that area will attempt to keep pressure on the government for reforms. (See map on facing page.).

Urgency has thus been added to recommendations anticipated from the Belgian parliamentary commission of inquiry which returned to Brussels on 27 January after an on-the-spot examination into the causes of the early January riots. Pending new decisions in Brussels, however, Belgian officials in the Congo apparently intend to continue to suppress Abako, the leading nationalist movement in the Leopoldville region, and to press the prosecution of its leaders.

Congolese agitators in the capital are reported to have requested aid from Ghana's Prime Minister Nkrumah. Specifically, Nkrumah is said to have been asked to help "liberate" imprisoned Abako leaders, to lead a "serious" inquiry into the 4 to 6 January disorders in order to establish an "impartial" judgment of facts, and to intervene with Brussels to hasten the recognition of Congo independence. Nkrumah reportedly took immediate action to assist in the legal defense of the arrested Congolese.

Events in the Congo are apparently beginning to have repercussions in neighboring Angola. [redacted]

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[redacted] natives in northern Angolan areas contiguous to the Congo--where there are many Africans belonging to the same Bakongo tribe in which the Abako movement originated--provoked "disorders" last week. [redacted]

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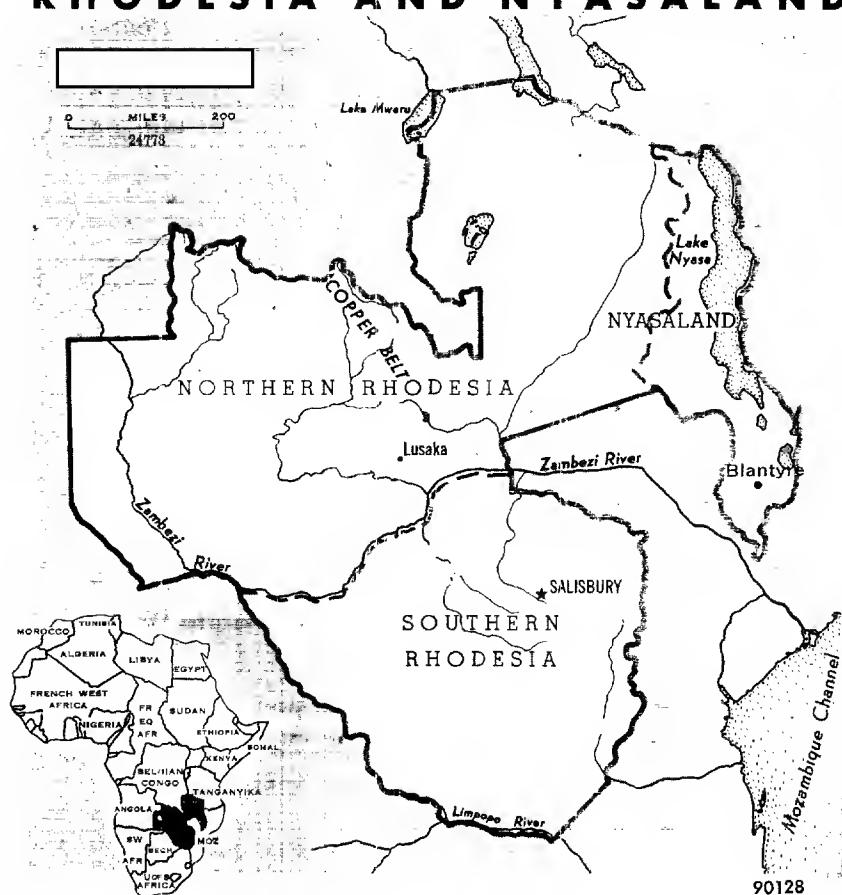
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RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

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African Nationalists Pose Growing Threat to Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

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[An emergency meeting of the Nyasaland African National Congress (ANC) on 24 January at Blantyre reaffirmed the demagogic leadership of Dr. Hastings Banda and ended in a riot which caused police to arrest 26 Africans. The rioting is symptomatic of the increasing threat to the peaceful evolution of the British protectorate of Nyasaland within the self-governing Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.]

[Banda, who returned to Nyasaland last July after a long self-imposed exile in the United States, Britain, and Ghana, has revitalized the Nyasaland ANC in an effort to break up the federation dominated by the European settler minority of Southern Rhodesia and the copperbelt of Northern Rhodesia. African moderates in all three territories of the federation appear unable to combat his growing popularity, and he has in fact become the symbol of African nationalism in the area. Upon his return in December from the All-African Peoples' Conference at Accra, he publicly proclaimed, "To hell with your federation, I am ready for prison at any time," and stated that Africans must be prepared to go to prison by the millions to win the fight for freedom.]

[British officials in Nyasaland, deeply concerned about his activities and aware of the vicious anti-white nationalist propaganda in the Nyasaland schools, fear that the ANC will resort increasingly to civil disobedience such as its boycott of the general elections last November. Meanwhile, settler officials in Salisbury refuse to make any gesture toward a genuine multiracial system--such as designating an African cabinet meeting--and they have banned Banda from Northern and Southern Rhodesia.]

[Banda may be encouraged by the efforts of the European minority party--the pro-segregationist Dominion party--to split off Nyasaland and other overwhelmingly native areas from a settler-controlled independent Rhodesia.]

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Pakistan Announces Land Reform Program

The land-reform program announced by Pakistani President Ayub on 24 January provides that no individual may hold more than 500 acres of irrigated land or 1,000 acres of non-irrigated land. It also calls for the elimination of small, un-economic holdings. This program, which the army regards as essential to the economic welfare of Pakistan, should provide several million acres for distribution to the peasants and result in increased popular support for the government.

The ceilings for landholding have been set at higher levels than originally planned, apparently to avoid disrupting agricultural production and antagonizing too large a group of landlords. The protests of the landowners affected will probably be overridden by the military government.

Finance Minister Shoaib, the chief architect of Pakistan's economic policies, plans to visit Washington in February and probably will seek additional aid to help carry out the land reform and the government's other economic development policies.

III. THE WEST

West Germany May Accept IRBMs -

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(Acting on Chancellor Adenauer's instructions, West German Defense Minister Strauss informed General Norstad that Bonn would "step in and help" if other NATO countries were unwilling to accept IRBMs. Thus far only the British have acquired American IRBMs, although negotiations have been opened with some other NATO countries.)

[In earlier discussions--held during the 1958 state election campaigns--Bonn opposed acquisition of these missiles for fear of an adverse public reaction. Adenauer now may feel that the Socialists' atom-death campaign won little popular support, and he may also be influenced by the gravity of the Berlin situation.]

[Strauss also stressed that Bonn desired to begin an extensive modern weapons research and development program--preferably with its European partners, but alone if necessary. He requested more information on US research projects to avoid duplication of effort. Strauss was particularly interested in the acquisition and production of the Sidewinder air-to-air missile, and requested "instant and complete" information on it. He also inquired as to the status of supplies of nuclear warheads for the US 280-mm. atomic cannon.]

[Bonn plans to meet its NATO goals, according to Strauss, and expects no financial problems for the next three years. In order to carry out NATO plans, Bonn will increase the number of Nike antiaircraft missile battalions from the present six to nine and obtain an additional nine mobile Hawk missile battalions. In December Strauss indicated that negotiations were being conducted with other European countries for common production of the Hawk.]

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